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21 February 1963

SUBJECT: Aerial Reconnaissance Over Cuba, 29 August to
14 October 1962

1. On 29 August and 5 September 1962 high-altitude photographic reconnaissance missions were flown which covered most of the inner portions of Cuba.

2. Analysis of the results of these successful missions led to the determination that four more missions would be required to obtain adequate coverage of the entire island with minimum risk to the aircraft.

3. At this point, however, a period of extremely poor weather set in, which prevailed over Cuba for the next several weeks. The first of the four missions was flown on 17 September but the photographic targets of this mission were totally cloud-covered.

4. Poor weather over the target areas prevented another mission until 26 September, when a portion of Eastern Cuba was covered. The reconnaissance plan was finally completed by missions flown on 29 September over the Isle of Pines and portions of the southwest coast of the island, on 5 October over the southern and eastern coast of the island, and on 7 October over the eastern and northern coast.

5. While the four-mission schedule was being completed, a new reconnaissance program was developed. This plan was put into effect on 9 October, but another period of bad weather prevented its implementation until the mission of 14 October, which covered Western Cuba and identified the first MRBM sites.